

AMENDMENT AND PRESENTATION OF CLAIMS

Please replace all prior claims in the present application with the following claims, in which claims 31 and 32 are canceled, and claims 1, 6, 11, 16, 21 and 26 are currently amended.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing a call, the method comprising:

receiving a query from a switch associated with a service provider for an instruction for terminating the call, wherein the service provider includes an interexchange carrier;

determining whether the call is a local ~~portability~~ number portability (LNP) call; and

if the call is a LNP call, selectively instructing, in response to the query, the switch to terminate the call without incurring a local access charge for the call assessable by a local carrier capable of terminating the call,

wherein the call is terminated over a Dedicated Access Line (DAL) circuit of the service provider.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising:

specifying that the call is alternatively to be terminated over a communication mechanism including one of a wireless communication channel, a Voice over IP (Internet Protocol) session, or a cable communication channel.

3. (Original) A method according to claim 2, wherein the communication mechanism is unavailable to terminate the call, the method further comprising:

instructing the switch to terminate the call over another communication mechanism different from the communication mechanism.

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4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, wherein the step of instructing the switch is iteratively performed until an available communication mechanism exists or an overflow condition is determined whereby the call is routed over a local carrier network.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the query in the receiving step is a Service Control Point (SCP) query.

6. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for processing a call, the one or more sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving a query from a switch associated with a service provider for an instruction for terminating the call, wherein the service provider includes an interexchange carrier;
determining whether the call is a local ~~portability~~ number portability (LNP) call; and
if the call is a LNP call, selectively instructing, in response to the query, the switch to terminate the call without incurring a local access charge for the call assessable by a local carrier capable of terminating the call,
wherein the call is terminated over a Dedicated Access Line (DAL) circuit of the service provider.

7. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 6, wherein the one or more processors further perform the step of:

specifying that the call alternatively is to be terminated over a communication mechanism including one of a wireless communication channel, a Voice over IP (Internet Protocol) session, or a cable communication channel.

8. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to claim 7, wherein the communication mechanism is unavailable to terminate the call, and the one or more processors further perform the step of:

instructing the switch to terminate the call over another communication mechanism different from the communication mechanism.

9. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to claim 8, wherein the step of instructing the switch is iteratively performed until an available communication mechanism exists or an overflow condition is determined whereby the call is routed over a local carrier network.

10. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to claim 6, wherein the query in the receiving step is a Service Control Point (SCP) query.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for routing a call over an interexchange carrier network, the method comprising:

receiving the call destined for a station directly reachable by the interexchange carrier network;

transmitting a query to a call processor configured to provide service intelligence relating to the call, the query requesting information for routing the call to the station, wherein the

call processor determines that the call is a local ~~portability~~ number portability (LNP) call;
and

receiving a response to the query from the call processor, the response containing the routing information for selectively bypassing a local exchange carrier network serving the station.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the routing information in the step of receiving the response includes termination of the call over a communication mechanism including one of a Dedicated Access Line (DAL), a wireless communication channel, a Voice over IP (Internet Protocol) session, or a cable communication channel.

13. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the communication mechanism is unavailable to terminate the call, the method further comprising:

transmitting another query to the call processor for another communication mechanism different from the communication mechanism.

14. (Original) A method according to claim 13, wherein the step of transmitting the other query is iteratively performed until an available communication mechanism exists or an overflow condition is determined whereby the call is routed over a local carrier network.

15. (Original) A method according to claim 11, wherein the query in the transmitting step is a Service Control Point (SCP) query.

16. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium carrying one or more sequences of one or more instructions for routing a call over an interexchange carrier network, the one or more

sequences of one or more instructions including instructions which, when executed by one or more processors, cause the one or more processors to perform the steps of:

receiving the call destined for a station directly reachable by the interexchange carrier network;

transmitting a query to a call processor configured to provide service intelligence relating to the call, the query requesting information for routing the call to the station, wherein the call processor determines that the call is a local ~~portability~~ number portability (LNP) call; and

receiving a response to the query from the call processor, the response containing the routing information for selectively bypassing a local exchange carrier network serving the station.

17. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium according to claim 16, wherein the routing information in the step of receiving the response includes termination of the call over a communication mechanism including one of a Dedicated Access Line (DAL), a wireless communication channel, a Voice over IP (Internet Protocol) session, or a cable communication channel.

18. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to claim 17, wherein the communication mechanism is unavailable to terminate the call, and the one or more processors further perform the step of:

transmitting another query to the call processor for another communication mechanism different from the communication mechanism.

19. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to claim 18, wherein the step of transmitting the other query is iteratively performed until an available communication mechanism exists or an overflow condition is determined whereby the call is routed over a local carrier network.

20. (Original) A computer-readable medium according to claim 16, wherein the query in the transmitting step is a Service Control Point (SCP) query.

21. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication system for call processing, the system comprising:

a call processor communicating with a switch and being configured to provide an alternative route for a call, received by the switch, that is determined to be a local ~~portability~~ number portability (LNP); and

a database coupled to the call processor for storing the alternative route among a plurality of alternative routes associated with the LNP call, the alternative route specifying bypass of a local exchange network capable of terminating the call,

wherein the switch is operated by an interexchange carrier and the alternative route includes a circuit of the interexchange carrier for directly terminating the call.

22. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 21, wherein the circuit is a Dedicated Access Line (DAL), and the alternative route further includes termination over a communication mechanism including one of a wireless communication channel, a Voice over IP (Internet Protocol) session, or a cable communication channel.

23. (Original) A system according to claim 21, wherein the call processor repeatedly provides another one of the alternative routes until an available alternative route is determined or an overflow condition is determined whereby the call is routed over a local carrier network.

24. (Original) A system according to claim 21, wherein the query in the receiving step is a Service Control Point (SCP) query.

25. (Canceled) ~~A system according to claim 21, wherein the switch is operated by an interexchange carrier.~~

26. (Currently Amended) A telecommunication system for processing a call, the system comprising:

means for communicating with a switch and for providing an alternative route for a call, received by the switch, that is determined to be a local ~~portability~~ number portability (LNP); and

means for storing the alternative route among a plurality of alternative routes associated with the LNP call, the alternative route specifying bypass of a local exchange network capable of terminating the call,

wherein the switch is operated by an interexchange carrier and the alternative route includes a circuit of the interexchange carrier for directly terminating the call.

27. (Previously Presented) A system according to claim 26, wherein the circuit is a Dedicated Access Line (DAL), and the alternative route further includes termination over a

communication mechanism including one of a wireless communication channel, a Voice over IP (Internet Protocol) session, or a cable communication channel.

28. (Original) A system according to claim 26, wherein the means for communicating repeatedly provides another one of the alternative routes until an available alternative route is determined or an overflow condition is determined whereby the call is routed over a local carrier network.

29. (Original) A system according to claim 26, wherein the query in the receiving step is a Service Control Point (SCP) query.

30. (Canceled) ~~A system according to claim 26, wherein the switch is operated by an interexchange carrier.~~

31. (Canceled) ~~A method according to claim 1, wherein the service provider is an interexchange carrier and the circuit is a Dedicated Access Line (DAL).~~

32. (Canceled) ~~A method according to claim 6, wherein the service provider is an interexchange carrier and the circuit is a Dedicated Access Line (DAL).~~